



**Wrightington,
Wigan and Leigh**
NHS Foundation Trust



WIGAN

**‘Early Notification’ that a child may have
Special Educational Needs or Disabilities
(SEND).**

**An information leaflet for parents, carers
and professionals.**



[What is early notification?](#)

Health staff have a duty to notify the Local Authority (LA) of any child under compulsory school age who they think may have SEN or disabilities (Section 3 of the Children and Family 2014 Act) in order for the children to be supported appropriately.

Why consider early notification?

The Children and Family Act 2014 specifies that professionals across education, health and care should work together with parents / carers to meet the needs of early years children.

Children with SEND in the early years are identified through a range of checks and assessments across education, health and care.

The SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (January 2015, last updated 1 May 2015) states that “appropriate notification can be given to the local authority of children under compulsory school age who they think may have SEN or disabilities” Section 3:46

Who might send the notification?

Paediatricians should send notifications to the Local Authority (LA). Other professionals are also able to send notifications including Speech Therapy; Physiotherapy; Occupational Therapy, Children’s Community Nursing Team, Consultant Audiologist / Ophthalmologist, Health Visitors and Tertiary Centres (Alder Hey, Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital).

Factors to take into account when considering if early notification is required:

- How the child’s needs are presenting
- The age of the child
- If the child’s needs are long term, severe and complex
- Characteristics of any diagnosis (if there is a diagnosis)
- Parental agreement for the notification

What details will Health give to the Local Authority when they send notification?

Health colleagues will provide information completed in liaison with the parent/carer and will include:

- Personal information e.g. Name, Date of Birth, Address
- The needs of the child, what it will mean for their development and the impact on their daily living
- Any diagnosis the child may have
- The setting the child attends (if appropriate)
- Any other information felt to be relevant in agreement with the parents/carers
- Confirmation that the family have consented to Early Notification

When might it be appropriate to send early notification?

- Children identified aged 0-2 with Profound and Multiple needs, usually identified soon after birth.
- Children with significant needs who will be eligible to access a 2 year old funded place
- Children identified at the 2 year old check with significant delays across all of their developmental milestones.
- Children with significant needs who will access their 3 year old funded place
- Children with significant needs who will be starting school
- It is important to note that families may not wish to take up funded nursery provision. In these cases, it is really important that the LA are notified of early years children who may have special educational needs who are not accessing a setting.

What will the LA do with the child's details?

- The Local Authority may make contact with the family and provide details of the Local Offer and local services
- Add details on to their electronic database
- Data will be used and stored in line with the Fair Processing Notice attached to the consent form.

What might be the next steps?

Once it has been identified that the child has particular additional needs, settings and / or professionals will refer to the graduated approach within the LA guidance which is available on each Authority's Local Offer website.

Where can I get more information?

Local Offer	Wigan Local Offer www.wigan.gov.uk/send/loffer	Wigan Council website providing information for young people with SEND, their parents and carers and professionals who support them.
Embrace	Embrace (embracewiganandleigh.org.uk)	A local organisation providing support for families of children and young people with SEND
Wigan Parent and Carer Forum	Wigan Parent Carer Forum (wiganpcf.org.uk)	Collective voice of parent carers of children and young people age 0-25 in Wigan Borough with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). Join the Parent Carer Forum to receive their Newsletter for families